[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

not required any more for this work, and so they are to be disbanded. Their cost at present is Rs. 52 per mensem. It is therefore porposed to utilise this saving for the entertainment of two Petty Officers and one peon who will do the tallying work in future. There will be no extra expenditure.

The third item is Rs.8,800 for the repair of damages to Excise buildings caused by the floods of Karkatakam, 1099. The printed list supplied to the members will give the information as to the damages that have taken place and the stations which require repair. I hope the House will be good enough to pass the demand.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to move Demand No. VII—General Administration—for a grant not exceeding Rs. 3,315. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 1,315 is intended to cover the establishment and contingent charges in connection with the clearance of arrears in the English Records Office. I believe the House is aware that a Special Officer with a staff consisting of four clerks on Rs. 40 each, one typist on Rs 25 and 2 peons on Rs. 9 each, per mensem have been attending to this work during the past 10 or 11 months under the supervision of the Director of Office Systems. Considerable progress has been made in this direction, that is to say, in separating important papers from unimportant ones, in sorting, arranging and listing important papers, in indexing them and in destroying the unimportant and obsolete ones. Still a large quantity of work remains to be done. It is not, however, proposed to extend the term of appointment of the Director of Office Systems, but it is very necessary to continue the Special Officer and staff till the close of the year to get through the balance of work.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know what the Special Officer was, when he was sent out from the Huzur, Office to act as Tahsildar?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe he was a clerk.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know what pay he was drawing then?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not remember.

PRESIDENT: How does it arise, Mr. Hoogewerf? The question is only whether the Special Officer has completed the work.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The sum asked for is on account of the cost of the establishment working under the Special Officer and the contingent charges.

Another sum of Rs. 2,000 has to be provided on account of election charges. There is already a provision of Rs. 2,000 in

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the budget. When the budget was framed, it was thought that the entire electoral roll could be got printed in the Government Press. Subsequently, it was found that it was not possible and a portion of the printing was entrusted to private firms in order to get through the work in time. The preliminary electoral roll has to be published before the 5th Kumbham, 1100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know why it was not possible to print them in the Government Press?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The whole thing has to be got printed in a short time. The quantity of matter to be printed is also very large. Further, copies of them have to be sent to different parts of the country for publication in time. With a view to get through this work expeditiously, arrangements have been made with certain private firms for the printing of a portion of the electoral roll as was done on the last occasion. These firms have to be paid printing charges.

There is still another item to be provided for. The Special Officer has applied for a staff for the preparation of the electoral roll and the pay of this staff comes to nearly Rs. 600. The additional sum of Rs. 2,000 asked for is to cover both these items of expenditure.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I object to the first portion of the grant, that is, Rs. 1,350, for the Special Officer's staff. My reasons for doing so are these. At the time the Director of Office Systems and the Special Officer were appointed, there was a storm of opposition from this side of the House and the proposal would have fallen through but for the accident of my absence from the House. I was then in the next room, and for want of one vote the proposal was carried. This side of the House was against that proposal. We said that the Director of Office Systems was absolutely unnecessary, and that it was an insult to the intelligence of the Huzur Secretariat.

PRESIDENT: We are not dealing with the Director now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The Director has very close connection with the Special Officer.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is Mr. Hoogewerf in order when he questions the decision arrived at by this House on a former occasion?

PRESIDENT: He is not in order.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am not questioning the decision at all. I only said that it was lost by my vote.

PRESIDENT: You can never know how the voting will take place at any time.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I only mention the fact. We are very glad to hear from the Chief Secretary that the Director of Office Systems is going out after, I believe, putting the whole Huzur Office in disorder. Now I am coming to the Special Officer—

PRESIDENT: I am afraid I must object to that.

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : The Special Officer was a clerk and the Chief Secretary has not been able to tell me what his pay was. He was sent out as a magistrate on Rs. 125 and was then appointed to act as a Tahsildar being given an allowance of Rs. 50. Subsequently he was brought over here with a deputation allowance of Rs. 35, that is Rs. 125 *plus* Rs. 50 *plus* Rs. 35, being put over the heads of many of his seniors in the Secretariat. This must cause a great deal of heart-burning among the Secretariat subordinates. That is a different matter.

At the time when they were appointed, the Superintendent of Staticnery was in charge of the records also. With the amalgamation of Sections in the Secretariat and the consequent superfluity of one Superintendent, he had to be put in responsible charge of the records. The present Superintendent is a man of service and experience, I believe it is Mr. Mathew, and his instruction under the Director of Office Systems will be quite ample to complete the remaining work that has been begun. The continuance of the Special Officer is unnecessary and superfluous. Therefore, I object to the grant.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I beg to support Mr. Hoogewerf.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Sir, I beg to point out that Mr. Hoogewerf is not entitled to question the propriety of Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar's appointment as Special Officer. Nor has that anything to do with the issue before the House. I may say for the information of the House that the work in the Records Section is divided into two parts, the current work and the arrears. The Superintendent who has been newly posted to the Records branch attends to the current work. Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar, the Special Officer, is solely engaged in clearing off the arrears. I do not wish to worry the House with the several items of work that remains to be done in the Records section; but I must say that it is absolutely necessary to continue the Special Officer and the staff at least till the close of this year. Otherwise the work already done will be an absolute waste.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : May I know whether the whole of the Secretariat staff is not thoroughly conversant with the present system of record-keeping newly introduced?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : They are thoroughly conversant. If you discharge the Special Officer and discontinue the work, the money already spent will be an absolute waste.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*) : May I know what proportion of the work has already been finished and what remains to be done?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Nearly three-fourths have been finished.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know how the necessity arises for an additional staff when he has been working all along with the present staff?

PRESIDENT: It is only the continuance of the old staff that is now applied for.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Why was not this included in the budget itself when it was presented before the House?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We thought we might get through the work before Makaram.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): How was it that the Government forecasted that it would be got through before Makaram?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We err on the safe side. We generally under-estimate our expenditure. We go in only for such expenditure as is absolutely necessary.

PRESIDENT: My impression is that it was in deference to the wishes of the House, that it was reduced to six months. I am not quite sure about it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was there a Superintendent of Records, at the time the Director of Office Systems and the Special Officer were appointed, in charge of the records, as there is now?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I wish to know whether that is relevant to the present discussion.

PRESIDENT: I think it is.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There was a Superintendent.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): A person as they have now? That is my question.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We have a Superintendent in the Records to attend to the current work.

PRESIDENT: There is no special Superintendent now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What about the arrangement in respect of the other sections?

PRESIDENT: That is beside the mark.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether there was this officer holding this post in this particular department before the new appointments were made.

PRESIDENT: The department underwent re-organisation.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I hope the House will now grant this modest request that I have made.

PRESIDENT: As the House wishes to divide on this matter, I will place the first part of the demand to the vote of the House separately.

The first part relating to the staff, etc. of the Special Officer was put to the vote of the House and accepted by a majority.

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[Mr. W. H. Pitt.]

The second portion of the grant relating to election charges was made without a division.

DEMAND XI—POLICE.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1,825 under Demand XI—Police, for the office establishment of Assistant Superintendents of Police. This amount, as explained in the printed notice, is made up of two sums, one of Rs. 650, which is the pay from the 1st Karkatakam, 1099, to the 25th Kanni 1100, of the disbanded men, and the second, a sum of Rs. 1,175 to be spent hereafter for the cost of their re-entertainment from the 1st Kumbham, 1100, till the end of the current financial year. It will be remembered that, at the last session—in the month of Kanni—the sum of Rs. 2,880, provided in the budget for the pay of office establishment of Assistant Superintendents for the current year, was deleted from the budget. The establishment consisting of six clerks and twelve peons was disbanded forthwith, that is, on the 25th Kanni. But these clerks and twelve peons have to be paid from the 1st Karkatakam to the 25th Kanni. Their pay amounted to Rs. 650. This sum had already become due before the provision made in the budget was deleted. There is no money to pay them now. So I am asking for that amount to be sanctioned.

The second item of Rs. 1,175 is required to restore these six clerks and twelve peons to their appointments and to pay them for the rest of the year.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I ask Mr. Pitt whether the Assistant Superintendents were conducting their duties without this establishment?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): They had no establishment.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What constituted their establishment?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): They themselves did the work of the establishment.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Has the work suffered in any way thereby?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I think it has.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Have they not on occasions asked Sub-Inspectors and head constables to do this work for them?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Occasionally, but a large number of their reports are seen to be in their own handwriting.

The Council deprived the establishment of their appointments in order to impress on Government their view that the Assistant Superintendents of Police themselves were unnecessary. It is unfortunate that this course was found to be necessary; but it may have been unavoidable.

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